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THIRD MEETING of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION for the Promotion of SOCIAL SCIENCE, held at Bradford, in October, 1859. Report made by JAMES HEYWOOD, Esq., F.R.S.

THE Congress on Social Science at Bradford commenced on Monday, the 10th of October, 1859.

At half-past three on that day, there was a special service in the parish church of Bradford, when the Bishop of Ripon preached from the text, Hosea, iv, 6: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

In the evening, the Earl of Shaftesbury, President of the Association, delivered his inaugural address to a large and influential audience.

Lord Shaftesbury in his address, expressed an ardent hope that these meetings would rise higher in public favour.

"Their peripatetic character," observed his Lordship, "diffuses interest and knowledge, keeps up a perpetual novelty, and prevents stagnation. Though in movement they present a constant centre, to which hints, suggestions, and the various and scattered knowledge in the country, may be directed. Many minds that have hitherto slept, are called into co-operation; and many, perhaps, commence a career. Efforts are invited, which otherwise, might never be made, or made carelessly. A man may have no time or opportunity for an elaborate treatise, but here a single sheet is submitted to the most intelligent judges, it is recorded by the daily press; and a few modest lines do more than the work of a big book."

On the five following days, addresses were delivered, at eleven o'clock each morning, by one of the Presidents of Departments, in the following order:—

Tuesday, Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood delivered an address on Jurisprudence and the Amendment of the Law.

Wednesday, The Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, M.P., spoke on Education.

Thursday, an address was delivered by R. Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P., on Punishment and Reformation.

Friday, The Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., addressed the Association on Public Health.

And on Saturday, the 15th October, Sir James Kay Shuttleworth, Bart., gave an address on Social Economy.

These addresses usually occupied an hour in delivery, so that the special business of the departments commenced at twelve. Four

was the concluding hour. Numerous papers were read and discussed in each department.

The Liverpool volume of the transactions of the Social Science Association, in 1858, contains the contributions of nearly a hundred authors, and there were 175 papers read at Bradford, which will form a volume of similar size and importance for the present year.

Invitations had been sent by the Council of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, to 31 Commercial associations, to appoint deputations to attend the meeting in Bradford.

So deep an interest was felt in Economical inquiries, that a requisition was presented to the Council of the Association at Bradford, recommending the formation of a sixth department, "especially directed to a study of the interests and the due economy of British Commerce, Manufactures, and Agriculture."

Several meetings were held at Bradford, during the week of the Social Science Congress, in favour of obtaining a Uniform System of measures, weights, and coins; M. Michel Chevalier, Member of the French Institute, presided over the principal discussions on this subject.

Much attention was given in the department of Jurisprudence, to the amendment of the Bankruptcy Law, in which leading Members of the Association including the General Secretary, Mr. Hastings, had previously been engaged. Mr. Edward Fry gave an outline of the provisions of the Laws of Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, which had been introduced into Parliament during the last Session, under the auspices of the Association. Mr. S. Morley, of London, advocated the abolition of the office of official assignee, so that the creditors might have the power of directing their own affairs.

Various papers were read in the Department of Education, on improvements in the system of superior instruction in this country.

The Rev. H. G. Robinson, Principal of the York Training School, noticed the condition of Middle Class education, particularly advertising to the want of training in English literature, which had been manifested in many middle class academies. He suggested that no person should be allowed to assume the functions of a schoolmaster, without first receiving a certificate of competency.

A strong feeling prevailed in the Education Department, that the Council of the Association should forthwith take steps in preparation for legislation on the subject of Charitable Trusts, at the commencement of next Session.

Mr. E. Baines, M.P., spoke in favour of the sufficiency of voluntary support for National Education. Mr. Morley also advocated similar views. An animated discussion took place on the respective merits of the voluntary system, and of Government aid to Education. The general feeling of the department was in favour

of the necessity of a combination of Government aid with voluntary efforts.

The time allotted to the Congress, from Monday to Saturday, is, practically, the clergyman's holiday, and many ministers of different denominations, and especially of the Church of England, attended the meeting at Bradford.

Competitive examinations, and the local examinations of academical bodies, such as the Universities of England, were considered in the Education department. A meeting of Secretaries of University local examination committees was recommended.

An able discussion took place on the expediency of giving Government grants to secular schools; the majority of the department were in favour of religious education. A recommendation was forwarded to the Council of the Association, on behalf of Ragged schools obtaining pecuniary educational aid from the annual Parliamentary grants.

Several highly talented ladies, experienced in subjects of Social economy, attended the Bradford meeting. Miss Carpenter spoke to a crowded audience, including many ladies, in one of the rooms of St. George's Hall, on the Industrial Schools' Act, and read a paper, in the Education department, on Ragged Schools. Miss Twining is distinguished for her excellent suggestions with respect to the improvements of Union Workhouses, and the value of ladies visiting those institutions. Miss Parkes' paper related to the improvement of female education, with a view to increased emolument to be derived from avocations subsequent to school instruction.

Four hours a day for four consecutive days, hardly afforded sufficient time for the discussion of many valuable communications read at the Bradford meeting.

Sections were subdivided to allow more leisure for the reading and consideration of papers.

Special discussions were held on "Strikes," at which representatives attended from Trades' Unions.

Several soirées took place during the week at St. George's Hall, and the principal officers of the Association, on one evening, addressed a crowded assembly of working men.

In the department of Punishment and Reformation, the licensing of public-houses was considered, as well as the ticket-of-leave system, frauds on articles of sale, and the best mode of enforcing payments from parents for the education of their children in Industrial Schools.

A penal Reformatory for refractory juvenile offenders was deemed desirable.

A report on Sanitary arrangements in Liverpool, was presented to

the Public Health Department, which had been especially prepared for the Bradford Congress.

Direct Taxation occupied the attention of a special section, presided over by Lord Brougham. A majority in that section were in favour of an increased property tax. The Chairman reported their opinion as that of the majority present.

Lord Brougham, who presided over the first meeting of the Social Science Congress, at Birmingham, in 1857, and was present at Liverpool, attended many of the principal proceedings of the Bradford meeting, and at the close of the Congress, communicated a letter which he had received from the Rev. William Vernon Harcourt, on behalf of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, requesting the co-operation of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, in endeavouring to obtain an improvement in the mode of taking scientific evidence, in cases brought before Courts of Justice. A ready desire was expressed by the Social Science Association to act in unison with the British Association, on this important matter.

The papers read at Bradford, often in an abridged form, were thus classified:—

	Papers.
On Jurisprudence and the Amendment of the Law.....	22
Education	38
Punishment and Reformation	27
Public Health	30
Social Economy	50
Papers read at Special Meetings	8
	<hr/> 175

There were 1,366 tickets taken at the Bradford Congress, of which, 397 were taken by members paying 1*l.* each and entitled to the volume of the transactions; 645 were taken by associates, paying 10*s.* each, and 324 were ladies' tickets.

Many of the subscribers attached themselves principally to some one department, in which they were interested, and the discussions on important topics of national welfare attracted crowded audiences.

More time for the discussion of papers appeared to be generally wished for.